

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03317 302051Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 100094

P R 301805Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3636

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCCGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJ: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR: LOCAL REACTION TO OAS AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 167465

1. THE AUGUST 21 AGREEMENT OF THE HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO A SCHEDULE AND AGENDA FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN GREETED LOCALLY WITH REACTIONS RANGING FROM SKEPTICISM TO MILD OPTIMISM. IN AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW ACCORD, PRES MOLINA MET WITH THE TOP MILITARY COMMAND AUGUST 23. DESPITE THIS EFFORT THE ACCORD HAS BEEN REGARDED WARILY IN MILITARY CIRCLES, IN VIEW OF THE OTHER FALSE STARTS TOWARD A DEFINITE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT THAT HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

2. IN BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES, TOO, THE WASHINGTON DECLARATION HAS BEEN MET WITH A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE, ALTHOUGH MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE COMMITTEE OF 7 MEETING WAS MORE POSITIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 03317 302051Z

IN FORM, AT LEAST, THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOPED. IN FACT,

IT HAS ENVOCKED LITTLE SIGNIFICANT COMMENT OR EXPECTATION AND THOSE WHO HAVE ACTUALLY READ THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR SETTLEMENT REALIZE THAT IT REPRESENTS SIMPLY THE FORMALIZED INTENT OF THE PARTITIES TO SEEK A SOLUTION RATHER THAN ANY BINDING COMMITMENT TO FIND ONE.

3. PRESS COMMENT HAS ALSO REFLECTED THE SAME GUARDED OPTIMISM NOTED ELSEWHERE. EDITORIALS IN PRINCIPAL PAPERS GENERALLY ENDORSED THE ACCORD WITH THE USUAL EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL TOWARD EL SALVADOR'S CENTRAL AMERICAN BRETHREN. ONE SMALL CIRCULATION PAPER, LA CRONICA, PERHAPS READING MORE INTO THE DECLARATION THAN THE OTHERS, SAW IN IT A HINT THAT HONDURAS MIGHT BE CHANGING ITS POSITION ON THE BORDER QUESTION.

4. BUTNT TO VIRTUALLY ALL OBSERVERS, IT IS IN FACT THE BORDER ISSUE (ITEM 4 ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA) WHICH REMAINS THE KEY QUESTION. DESPITE BORGONOVO'S PRIVATE COMMENTS TO US THAT BOTH PARTIES MUST BE READY TO ACCOMMODATE AT THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONTACTS HAVE INDICATED THAT ANY AGREEMENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT REACH WHICH COULD ENTAIL THE LOSS OF ANY SALVADORAN TERRITORY TO HONDURAS WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE-- "THEY WOULD SHOOT BORGONOVA IF HE EVER AGREED TO ANYTHING LIKE THAT" SAID ONE. A LEGISLATIVE DEPUTY NOTED THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY SAW LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY ARGUING OVER A SMALL PIECE OF RELATIVELY WORTHLESS LAND, POLITICALLY THE GOVT COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE POPULAR BACKLASH AGAINST ANY "SELL OUT" TO HONDURAS, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE BORDER ISSUE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE 1969 CONFLICT. AND ONE OF OUR MORE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY CONTACTS ADMITTED THAT ANY PROPOSED SETTLEMENT THAT ENTAILED THE LOSS OF TERRITORY WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO SELL TO THE MILITARY.

5. THE FORMAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN SET, THE TALKS ARE GOING FORWARD, THE BORDER SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS STABLE: SURFACE POSTAL FACILITIES BETWEEN THE TUKBQOUNTRIES WERE RESUMED LAST WEEK: ALL OF THESE ARE POSITIVE SIGNS. HOWEVER, UNLESS SOME BASIC

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03317 302051Z

CHANGE IN POSITIONS ON THE BORDER ISSUE TAKES PLACE ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, WE ARE FORCED TO AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL; "PAST EXPERIENCE...SHOULD CAUTION THAT THE ROAD TO NORMALIZATION MAY STILL BE ROCKY AND LONG."
CATTO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANSAS03317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CATTO
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973085/aaaaadno.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 167465
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR: LOCAL REACTION TO OAS AGREEMENT
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, ES, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005